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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Second Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.
2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 41st, 45th and 48th meetings, on 26 November and 6 and 13 December 1993. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/48/SR.41, 45 and 48). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 8 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/48/SR.3-8).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (A/48/545);
 - (b) Letter dated 28 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the press communiqué issued by the Standing Ministerial Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries at its meeting held at Bali, Indonesia, from 10 to 13 May 1993 (A/48/182);
 - (c) Letter dated 16 July 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Final Statement of the eleventh

session of the InterAction Council, held at Shanghai, China, from 13 to 16 May 1993 (A/48/272-26108);

(d) Letter dated 4 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final document of the third Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held at Salvador, Brazil, on 15 and 16 July 1993 (A/48/291-S/26242);

(e) Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 adopted at the seventeenth annual meeting held in New York on 5 October 1993 (A/48/485);

(f) Letter dated 28 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the communiqué adopted at the meeting of the Heads of Government of the countries of the Commonwealth, held at Limassol, Cyprus, from 21 to 25 October 1993 (A/48/564).

4. At the 41st meeting, on 26 November, an introductory statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (see A/C.2/48/SR.41).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.60 and L.86

5. At the 45th meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Year for the Eradication of Poverty" (A/C.2/48/L.60), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 entitled 'Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty',

"Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991 and 47/197 of 22 December 1992 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

"Noting that the eradication of poverty in all countries, in particular the developing countries, has become one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s and considering that the promotion of the eradication of poverty requires public awareness,

"Recognizing that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains and that its eradication constitutes an important factor to ensure sustainable development,

"Noting that the efforts made at the national and international levels need to be enhanced to ensure the eradication of poverty,

"Welcoming success noted in organizing and observing the international day for the eradication of poverty,

"Taking into account its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

"Stressing the positive impact that a favourable international economic environment, in particular in the area of trade, has in combating poverty in developing countries,

"Stressing further the importance of international cooperation in combating poverty, inter alia, through exchange among Governments of successful experiences in the field,

"1. Proclaims 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

"2. Decides that the major activities for the observance of the Year should be undertaken at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness that the eradication of poverty is fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, concerned specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to prepare a draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles and main recommendations for the Year, and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

"4. Also requests the Secretary-General to take specific measures to increase the dissemination of information and to give widespread publicity to the activities of the United Nations system, including those described in chapter 3 of Agenda 21 2/ related to the eradication of poverty;

1/ A/48/545.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

"5. Invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations concerned and interested national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to exert every possible effort in the preparations for and observance of the Year and to cooperate with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year;

"6. Designates the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development as the secretariat and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;

"7. Recommends that the secretariat and the coordinating body work in close collaboration with all relevant organizations inside and outside the United Nations system in the preparations for and observance of the Year;

"8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session a sub-item on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty under the agenda item entitled 'International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries'."

6. At the 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.86), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.60.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.86 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution I).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.86, draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.60 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/48/L.61 and L.89

9. At the 45th meeting, on 6 December, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries" (A/C.2/48/L.61), which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991 and 47/197 of 22 December 1992 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

"Reaffirming also its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990 as well as all declarations, commitments, plans and programmes of action containing provisions related to the eradication of poverty in the framework of activities of the United Nations system,

"Reaffirming further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 3/ in particular principle 5, Agenda 21, 4/ in particular chapter 3 entitled 'Combating poverty', the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 5/ in particular principle 7 (a), and all other decisions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development relating to the eradication of poverty,

"Noting that the eradication of poverty in developing countries has become one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s,

"Recognizing that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains and that its eradication constitutes an important factor in ensuring sustainable development,

"Considering that the efforts made at the national and international levels need to be enhanced to ensure the eradication of poverty,

"Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, 6/

"1. Stresses that the eradication of poverty requires a two-pronged approach: employment creation and increase of household income on the one hand, and provision of basic human services, strengthening of food security and execution of national capacity-building programmes on the other;

"2. Reaffirms that a supportive international economic environment that takes into account resource flows and structural adjustment programmes, in which social and environmental dimensions are integrated, is vital to the success of efforts of developing countries to deal with the eradication of poverty;

"3. Invites developing countries to undertake national strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty that involve more active participation of the targeted communities as well as the most vulnerable groups in initiating, implementing, following up and evaluating specific projects;

3/ Ibid, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

5/ Ibid., annex III.

6/ A/48/545.

"4. Reiterates its request to the international community to adopt specific and effective measures designed to increase financial flows to developing countries, and urges the developed countries and countries in a position to do so to augment their aid programmes and to make their best efforts to increase their level of official development assistance in order to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance;

"5. Invites the international community and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to support development programmes in developing countries, including the implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development related to the eradication of poverty, particularly chapter 3 of Agenda 21 2/ entitled 'Combating poverty';

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to urge the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in the framework of the help they give to developing countries, to strengthen their institutional capacities for implementing their poverty eradication programmes and to adopt an integrated approach, with attention to social services, income generation and the increased participation of local communities;

"7. Invites preparatory bodies and all relevant forthcoming major meetings and conferences of the United Nations system, particularly the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to take specific measures and decisions to meet the challenge of the eradication of poverty by the early part of the twenty-first century;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session an updated report focusing, inter alia, on the development of appropriate inputs to country programmes by relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, based on information exchange and analysis of the operations of actual programmes and the identification of constraints and weaknesses of operational capacities due to lack of resources, as well as focusing on elements for the elaboration of multisectoral strategies;

"9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled 'International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries'."

10. At the 48th meeting, on 13 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Leandro Arellano Resendiz (Mexico), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/48/L.89), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.61.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.89 without a vote (see para. 13, draft resolution II).

12. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/48/89, draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.61 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

13. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty",

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991 and 47/197 of 22 December 1992 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Recognizing that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains, and that its eradication in all countries, in particular in developing countries, has become one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s in order to promote sustainable development,

Noting that the efforts made at the national and international levels need to be enhanced to ensure the eradication of poverty, in particular in the least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and other countries having concentrations of poverty,

Welcoming the success noted in organizing and observing the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty,

Taking into account its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Stressing the positive impact that a favourable international economic environment, in particular in the area of trade, has in combating poverty in all countries, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing also the importance of international cooperation in combating poverty, inter alia, through exchange among Governments of successful experiences in the field,

1. Proclaims 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;
2. Decides that the major activities for the observance of the Year should be undertaken at the local, national and international levels and that assistance should be provided by the United Nations system with a view to creating among States, policy makers and international public opinion a greater awareness that the eradication of poverty is fundamental to reinforcing peace and achieving sustainable development;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with States, concerned specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to prepare a draft programme concerning the preparations for and observance of the Year, containing the objectives, principles and main recommendations for the Year, and to submit a progress report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;
4. Also requests the Secretary-General to give widespread publicity to the activities of the United Nations system, including those described in chapter 3 of Agenda 21 8/ related to the eradication of poverty;
5. Invites all States, organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations concerned and interested national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to exert every possible effort in the preparations for and observance of the Year and to cooperate with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year;
6. Designates the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty;
7. Recommends that the preparatory body and the coordinating body work in close collaboration with all relevant organizations inside and outside the United Nations system in the preparations for and observance of the Year;
8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session a sub-item on the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty under the item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".

8/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex II.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

International cooperation for the eradication
of poverty in developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990, 46/141 of 17 December 1991 and 47/197 of 22 December 1992 related to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries,

Reaffirming also its resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990, as well as all the declarations, commitments, plans and programmes of action containing provisions related to the eradication of poverty in the framework of activities of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming further the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 9/ in particular principle 5, Agenda 21, 10/ in particular chapter 3 entitled "Combating poverty", the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 11/ in particular Principle 7 (a), and all other decisions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development relating to the eradication of poverty,

Noting that the eradication of poverty in particular in developing countries, is one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s,

Recognizing that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains and that its eradication constitutes an important factor in ensuring sustainable development,

Recognizing the central role that women play in the eradication of poverty and the necessity to address the needs of women in poverty eradication programmes,

Considering that the efforts made at the national and international levels need to be enhanced to ensure the eradication of poverty, in particular in the least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa and other countries having concentrations of poverty,

9/ Ibid., annex I.

10/ Ibid, annex II.

11/ Ibid., annex III.

Reaffirming the need for the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to coordinate better and harmonize their activities in the field of the eradication of poverty, bearing in mind the relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, in particular the paragraph dealing with mechanisms and instruments of coordination at the field level,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, 12/

1. Stresses the importance of domestic policies, including effective budgetary policies, to mobilize and allocate domestic resources for the eradication of poverty through, inter alia, the creation of employment and income-generating programmes, the implementation of food security, health, education, housing and population programmes and the strengthening of national capacity-building execution programmes;
2. Reaffirms that a supportive international economic environment that takes into account resource flows and structural adjustment programmes, in which social and environmental dimensions are integrated, is vital to the success of efforts of developing countries, in particular, to deal with the eradication of poverty;
3. Invites all countries to undertake national strategies and programmes that are, inter alia, gender sensitive, taking into account cultural, religious and social particularities, for the eradication of poverty that involve more active participation of the targeted communities as well as the most vulnerable groups in initiating, implementing, following up and evaluating specific projects;
4. Reiterates its request to the international community to adopt specific and effective measures designed to increase financial flows to developing countries, and urges the developed countries, which have reaffirmed their commitment to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, to the extent that they have not yet achieved that target, to agree to augment their aid programmes in order to reach that target as soon as possible, some developed countries having agreed to reach the target by the year 2000; other developed countries, in line with their support for reform efforts in developing countries, agree to make their best efforts to increase their level of official development assistance;
5. Invites the international community and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to support development programmes in developing countries, including the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development related to the eradication of poverty, particularly chapter 3 of Agenda 21 2/ entitled "Combating poverty";

6. Requests the Secretary-General to urge the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in the framework of the help they give to developing countries, to strengthen their institutional capacities for implementing their poverty eradication programmes and to adopt a coordinated and integrated approach that includes, inter alia, the role and needs of women, with attention to social services, income generation and the increased participation of local communities;

7. Invites preparatory bodies and all relevant forthcoming major meetings and conferences of the United Nations system, particularly the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), to take specific measures and decisions to meet by the early part of the twenty-first century the challenge of the eradication of poverty;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session an updated report focusing, inter alia, on the development of appropriate inputs to country programmes by relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, based on information exchange and analysis of the operations of actual programmes and the identification of constraints and weaknesses of operational and coordinating capacities owing to a lack of resources, as well as focusing on elements for the elaboration of multisectoral strategies;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".
